

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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R 071542Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2486

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - SEABOARD CARGO OPERATIONS IN ITALY

1. ON AUGUST 5, 1975 PSA AIRPORT DIRECTOR, APPARENTLY ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM CIVILAVIA, REFUSED TO PERMIT SEABOARD'S REGULARLY SCHEDULED CARGO SERVICE TO DEPART. AIRCRAFT WAS HELD UNTIL NEXT DAY AND RELEASED AFTER LOCAL SEABOARD REP AND EMBOFF INTERVENED WITH HIGH-LEVEL CIVILAVIA OFFICIALS.

2. AS EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS INCIDENT, BASED ON INFO FROM SEABOARD REP AND CIVILAVIA, PROBLEM AROSE BECAUSE TWO SEABOARD FLIGHTS ARRIVED IN PISA ON TUESDAY. THE FLIGHT SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY WAS DELAYED AND ARRIVED EARLY TUESDAY MORNING WHILE TUESDAY FLIGHT WAS ON TIME. PISA AIRPORT DIRECTOR STATES HE HAS INSTRUCTIONS FROM CIVILAVIA NOT RPT NOT TO PERMIT SEABOARD TO OPERATE MORE THAN ONE FLIGHT A DAY. CONSEQUENTLY, AIRPORT DIRECTOR DELAYED DEPARTURE OF SECOND AIRCRAFT.

3. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, THIS NOT FIRST TIME SEABOARD HAS EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTIES WITH CIVILAVIA AND/OR AIRPORT DIRECTORS BECAUSE OF FAILURE TO ADHERE TO SCHEDULES. WHILE SCHEDULES HAVE BEEN ONLY LOOSELY FOLLOWED, SEABOARD HAS NOT RPT NOT OPERATED MORE THAN ITS NINE AUTHORIZED WEEKLY ALL-CARGO FREQUENCIES.

4. UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, EMBASSY INTENDS DELIVER NOTE
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NEXT WEEK TO MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) PROTESTING DELAY OF

THIS REGULARLY SCHEDULED SERVICE BY AIRPORT AUTHORITIES AND REQUESTING THAT APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS BE ISSUED TO CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES TO PREVENT REOCCURANCE. NOTE WILL EMPHASIZE: (A) SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES IN ADHERING STRICTLY TO SCHEDULE WHEN OPERATING ALL-CARGO SERVICES; (B) THAT SEABOARD SUBJECT TO USUAL MECHANICAL/TECHNICAL/METEOROLOGICAL DELAYS; AND (C) THAT SEABOARD AUTHORIZED NINE WEEKLY ALL-CARGO FREQUENCIES AND HAS OPERATED STRICTLY WITHIN THAT PARAMETER DURING 1975 (NO EXTRA SECTIONS REQUESTED). EMBASSY WILL OBSERVE THAT ALITALIA NOT SUBJECT TO SAME STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS IN ITS OPERATIONS, EITHER IN US OR ITALY.

5. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BE ABLE TO STATE THAT FURTHER INSTANCES OF DELAY OF US CARRIERS' SCHEDULED SERVICES BY CIVILAVIA OR AIRPORT DIRECTOR WOULD CAUSE EMBASSY TO RECOMMEND APPLICATION OF SIMILAR REGIME TO ALITALIA OPERATIONS IN US.

6. COMMENT. SEABOARD WOULD HAVE FEWER PROBLEMS IN ITS RELATIONS WITH CIVILAVIA IF IT COULD ADHERE MORE CLOSELY TO PUBLISHED AND APPROVED SCHEDULES. IF SCHEDULES ARE NOT REALISTIC, EMBASSY SUGGESTS APPROPRIATE CHANGES BY INCORPORATED IN FINAL 1975-76 WINTER SCHEDULES TO BE FILED WITH MFA ON SEPTEMBER 1. VOLPE

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